

AL-VI-B-229

Consolidation Coal Company Mine #7
Klondike
Industrial

1897

Consolidation Coal Company's Mine #7 in Klondike, MD. was the largest deep mine ever worked in the Maryland coal region. During its 27 years of operation, from 1897 to 1924, it achieved the highest production level of a bituminous coal mine in the country; over 1000 miners mined 5705 net tons of coal per day, at maximum. Mine #7 was the banner mine for Consolidation Coal Company, a company organized in Maryland in 1860 which later became the largest bituminous coal company in the eastern U.S. The ruins of Mine #7 embody the unsung importance of the Maryland coal mining history.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

AL-VI-B-229

MAGI #0112065616

NR

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Consolidation Coal Company Mine #7

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Klondike Road., southside, approximately 1 3/4 miles west of intersection

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT with Rt. 36

Klondike

VICINITY OF

6th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☒ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland

STATE

Maryland 21502

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-VI-B-227

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☒ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Consolidation Coal Company Mine #7 lies on the south side of Klondike Road, in a ravine cut by Woodland Creek. It is situated in the midst of an area that is undergoing surface coal mining. Mine #7 opening has presently been avoided except for stripping on the hill directly above the opening.

The mine opening is all that remains of an extensive mining complex. In 1908, mine #7 was the largest bituminous coal mine in the U.S. It is a slope mine opening into the "Big Vein" (Pittsburgh) coal seam. The stone and brick lined adit of Mine #7 enters the base of Squirrel Neck hill and runs 250 feet south. Beyond that point there has been a collapse.

The opening originally measured 12 feet in height and 17 feet 6 inches in width, large enough for a double track entry, and was faced with Belgian Block stone. The present height of the opening is 5 feet 10 inches and the width, at the base is 16 feet, 2 inches; erosion has filled approximately 6 feet of the entrance. Remains of stone wing walls leading to the opening are still visible. The Belgian Block facing on the opening has deteriorated and fallen in.

Associated structures that do not survive this complex were the engine, boiler, fan, and locomotive houses, the shop, scales, weighing office, several tipples, and a drift opening,¹ located on the opposite side of the ravine (See photo copies of the site plan and a c. 1902 photo.)

1

A drift mine is an opening driven into a coal seam from the outcropping, making a tunnel in the coal itself, whereas a slope opening is an opening driven through rock strata to meet a coal seam.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1897-1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Consolidation Coal Company's Mine #7 in Klondike, MD was the largest deep mine ever worked in the Maryland coal region. During its 27 years of operation, from 1897 to 1924, it achieved the highest production level of a bituminous coal mine in the country; over 1000 miners mined 5705 net tons of coal per day, at maximum. Mine #7 was the banner mine for Consolidation Coal Company, a company organized in Maryland in 1860 which later became the largest bituminous coal company in the eastern U.S. The ruins of Mine #7 embody the unsung importance of the Maryland coal mining history.

History & Support

Consolidation Coal Company was organized in 1860 in Maryland with a prestigious board of directors including William Aspinwall, Erastus Corning, and John M. Forbes. (Scharf, p. 1441) It quickly became the largest bituminous coal company in the eastern U.S., operating several mines in Maryland's Georges Creek Coal Basin initially, and later, in Pennsylvania, Kentucky and West Virginia.

In 1897, the company opened Mine #7 and initiated the development of Lord, a town named for Charles K. Lord, President of Consolidation Coal Co. (Beachly).

The mining complex was laid out on a large scale to allow for "indefinite expansion should the demand for coal warrant it." (Annual Report of 1897). The mine worked the largest remaining portion of the Big Vein coal belonging to the Consolidation Coal Company. (Annual Report of 1908-09, p. 14-15). The Big Vein coal found in the Georges Creek Basin was low in sulphur content, making it excellent and desirable as a steam coal. Mine #7 worked a 9 foot thick seam of Big Vein coal.

Upon the opening of #7, the U.S. was in the midst of the Spanish American War. Consolidation opened Mine #7 to replace its Big Vein Mine #4 in nearby Eckhart, MD., which had decreased in output. Coal mined in #7 went directly to furnish the American Navy coaling stations. Consolidation rushed to meet the increased demand of good steam coal by hiring more miners and operating double shifts at Mine #7 (Harvey, p. 320).

At its peak, the Mine #7 complex included a main, double track slope opening; an engine house which contained 2 of the most powerful stationary mine haulage engines in the country; a sophisticated and innovative tippie

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AD-11-8-1129

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines, 1897.

Annual Report of the Mine Inspector for Allegany and Garrett Counties, MD.
May 1, 1908 - May 1, 1909.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

see separate sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donna Ware, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust/Bureau of Mines

DATE

1981

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle, Shaw House

TELEPHONE

301-269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

(Continued #8 - Significance)

system designed by B.S. Randolph, a local mine superintendent; additional drift openings; boiler, fan and locomotive houses; shops; scales; and a weighing office. (See photos referred to in description). (Annual Report 1908-1909, page 14-15). All that remains of this vast complex is the main, double track slope opening which is arched with fine cut Belgian block stone and once measured 12 feet in height and 17 feet 6 inches in width. (Nicholls)

At one time, the 2 tracks diverged inside the mine, one passing under the other descending 6600 feet in 2 directions to the south and southeast toward the workings of Consolidation's Ocean Mine No. 1, the center of the Georges Creek Coal Basin. Within 6 minutes, a train, or "trip," of 50 loaded mining cars could be hauled from the bottom of the mine, up the 6600 foot interior, inclined plane, to "daylight," outside the mine and, at the same time, 50 empty cars could be delivered to the bottom of the mine.

The 1,100 miners employed at Mine #7 by 1905 were supervised by 1 foreman and 6 sub-foreman or section bosses. (Annual Report 1905, p. 40). When Consolidation opened Mine #7 in 1897, 6 dwelling houses were erected by the company in the nearby town of Lord, presumably for the 6 sub-foreman. Twenty additional houses were erected at that time by employees to whom the company leased lots. (Annual Report of 1897, p. 4). It is assumed that Consolidation maintained this practice for the growing number of employees at Mine #7. Many of the miners lived in nearby towns in the Georges Creek region and traveled daily to work at Mine #7. This was a common practice in most Georges Creek mines.

Upon the opening of the mine, the town of Lord and the mine were locally known as "Klondike;" the town bears the name today. According to the 1908 - 1909 Annual Report of the Mine Inspector for Allegany and Garrett Counties, Maryland, the town and mine acquired that nickname because it was up in the mountain and there was a large area of the Big Vein.

It seems logical that there would be some connection with the Alaskan Klondike gold region. An 1899 advertisement in The Coal Trade Journal for Consolidation Coal Company bears this out: Georges Creek coal was used for smithing purposes at the Klondike gold fields, (Vol. 38, No. 15, p. 182).

Mine #7 was exhausted in 1924. This area is currently undergoing surface coal mining, endangering the future existence of the opening. It is recommended that vegetation be cleared around the opening and that the stone facing that remains, be stabilized. Future surface mining in the area of the area of the opening should be avoided.

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(Continued #9, Bibliography)

Beachley, Charles E. History of the Consolidation Coal Company. New York:
The Consolidation Coal Co., 1934.

Gallagher, Patrick. Maryland Bureau of Mines. Interview, September 1981.

Harvey, Katherine. Best Dressed Miners. Ithaca: Cornell University Press,
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Hooker, Al. Maryland Bureau of Mines. Interview, December 1981.

Nicolls, William Jasper. Above Ground and Below in the George's Creek Coal
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Scharf, Thomas J. History of Western Maryland. Vol. II. Philadelphia:
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Second Annual Report of the Maryland Bureau of Mines. 1924.

The Coal Trade Journal. Vol. 38, No. 15. New York: 1899.

A-L-V: B-229

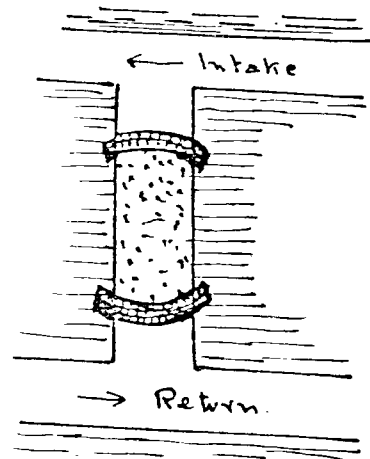


FIG. 132.—Stopping.

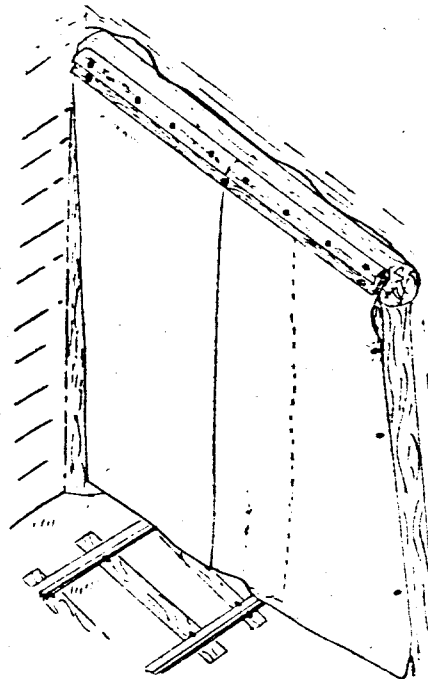


FIG. 133.—Brattice.

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(c)
open c
fire.

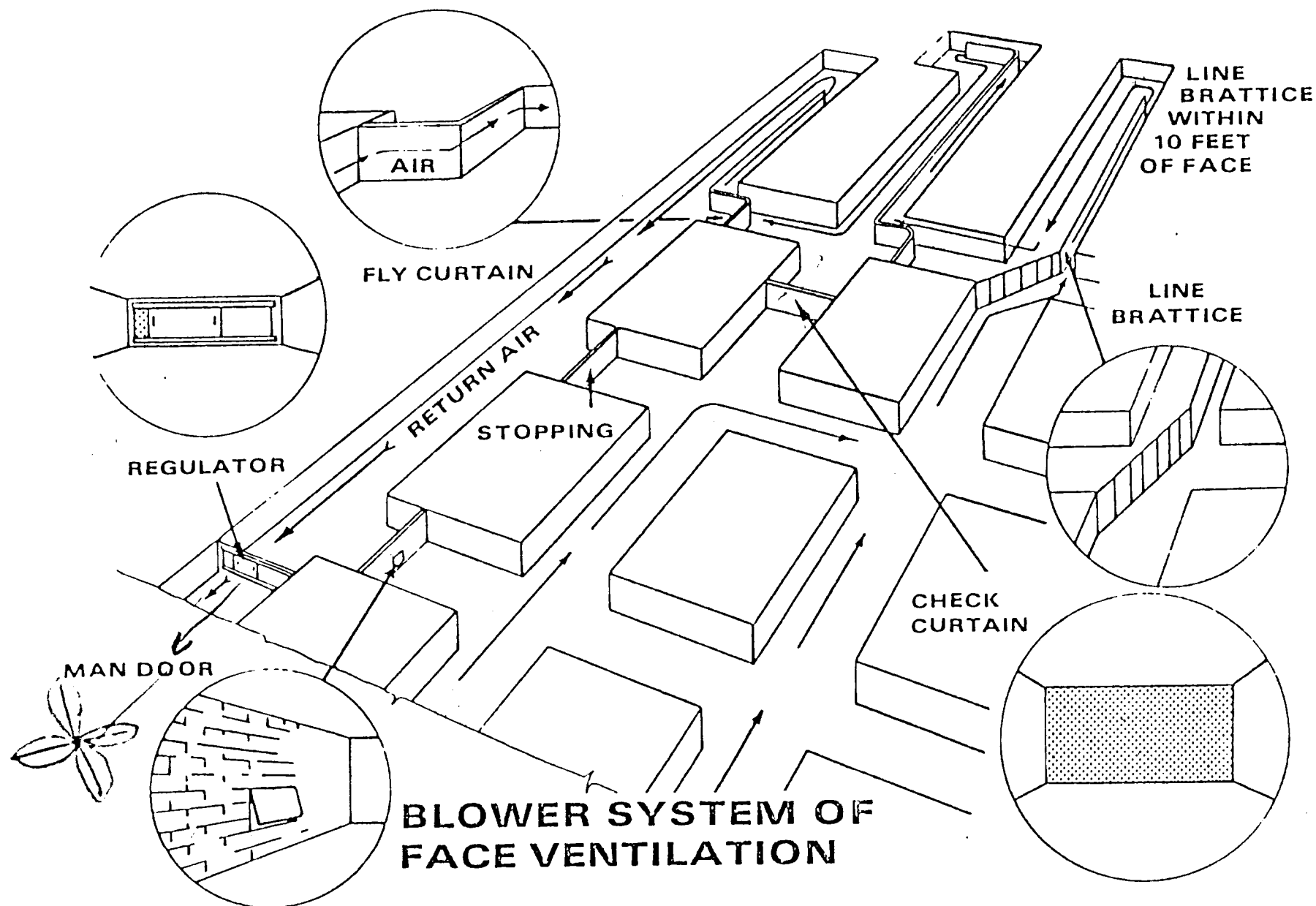
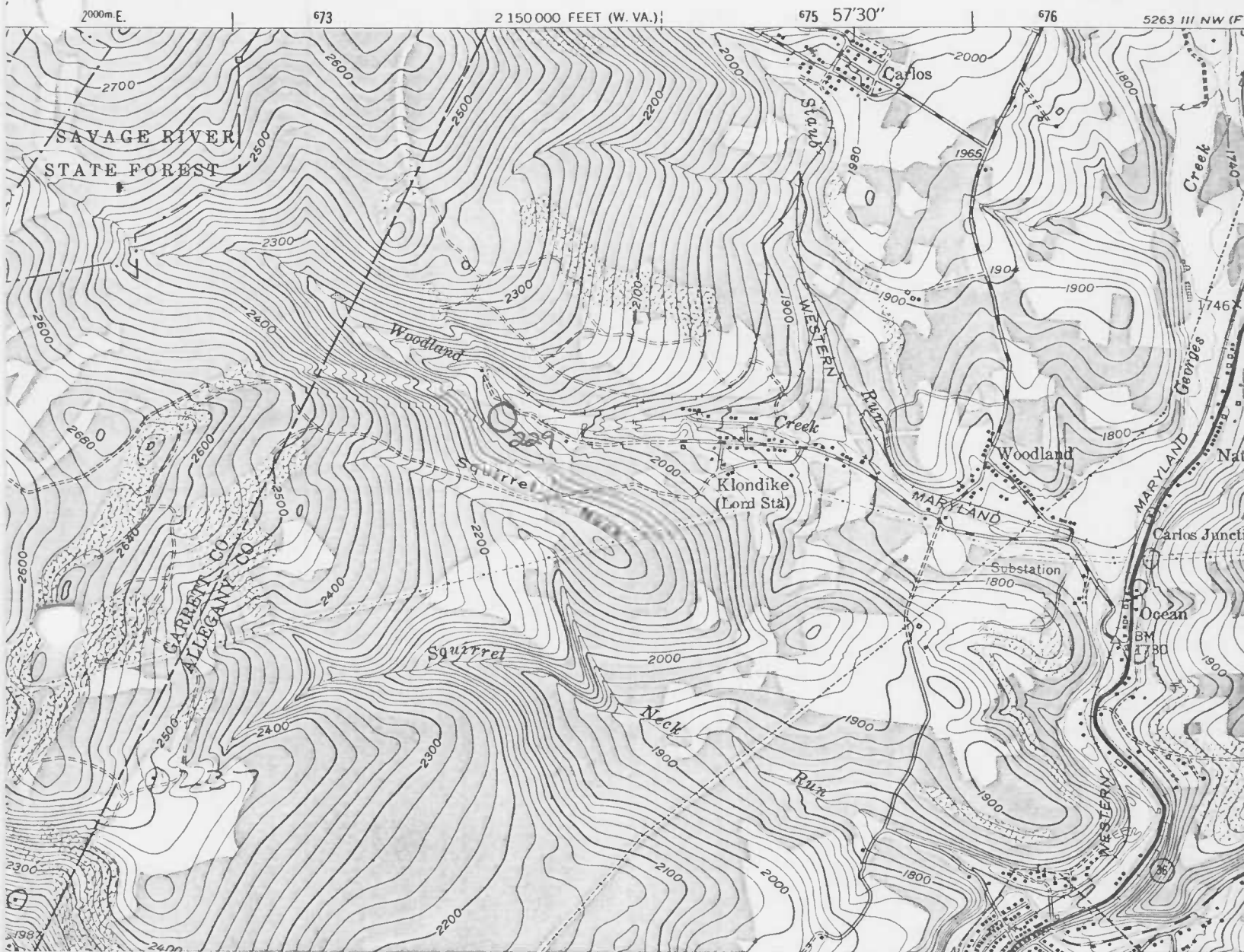


Figure 4.11. Example of the Use of a Blower Line Brattice

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF
MARYLAND



Lonaconing/MD. WV Quad.
Klondike, MD
7.5 Minute Series
Scale 1:24,000
1948; photorevised 1974

Site #: AL-VI-B-229
Consolidation Coal Company Mine #7
Klondike Rd., southside, approximately
1 3/4 miles west of intersection
with Rt. 36.



AL-VI-B-229

Consolidation Coal Co. Mine #7

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 2/81

View to South



AL-VI-B-229

Consolidation Coal Co. Mine #7

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 2/81

View to South



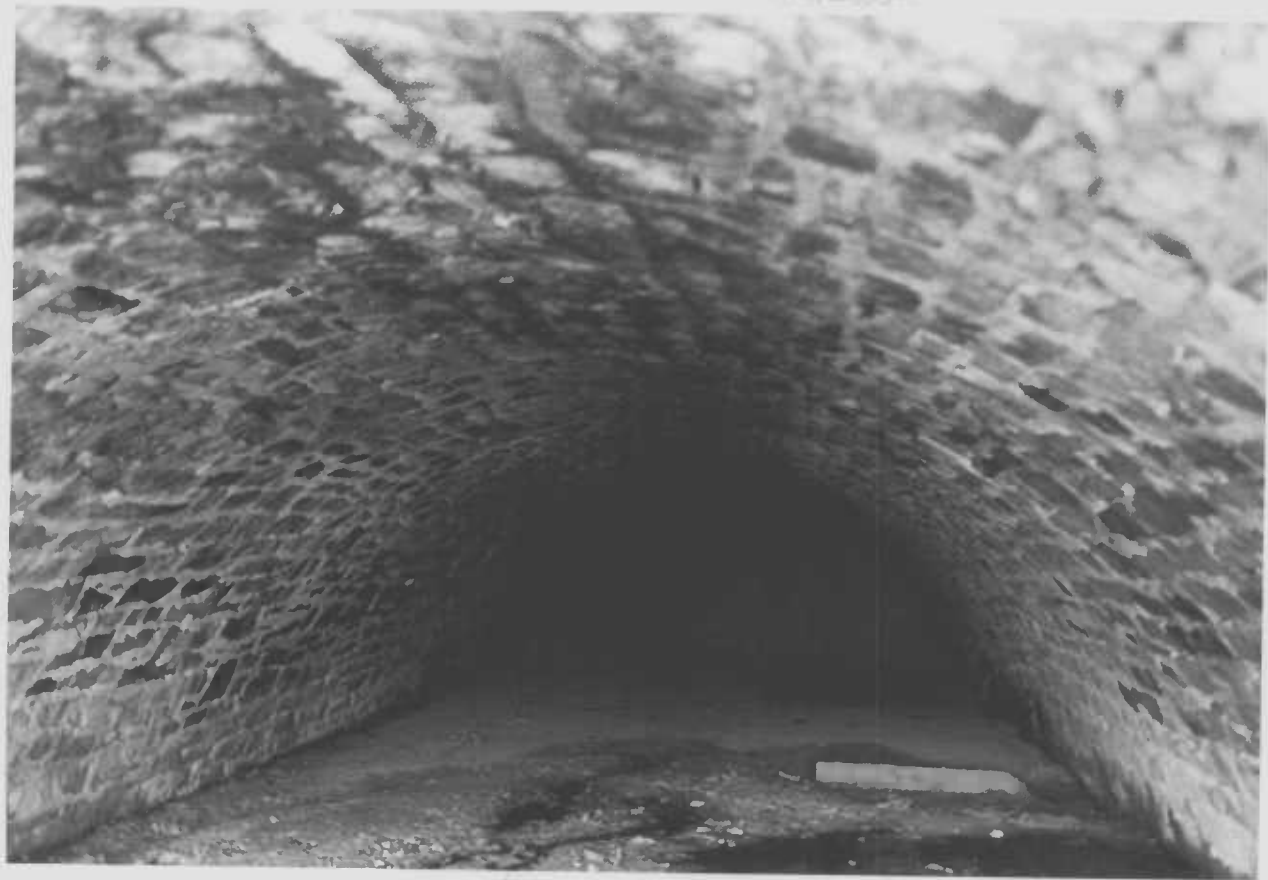
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Consolidation Coal Co. Mine #7

Allegany Co., Md.

Mark Edwards, 9/25/81

Looking South



AL-VI-B-229

Consolidation Coal Co. Mine #7

Allegany Co., MD

David A. Dorsey 2/81



Al-VI-B-229

Consolidation Coal Co. Mine #7

Allegany Co., Md.

Mark Edwards, 9/25/81

Looking South



AL-VI-B-229

Consolidation Coal Co. #7 Mine

Allegany County

David A. Dorsey 10/80

Looking south

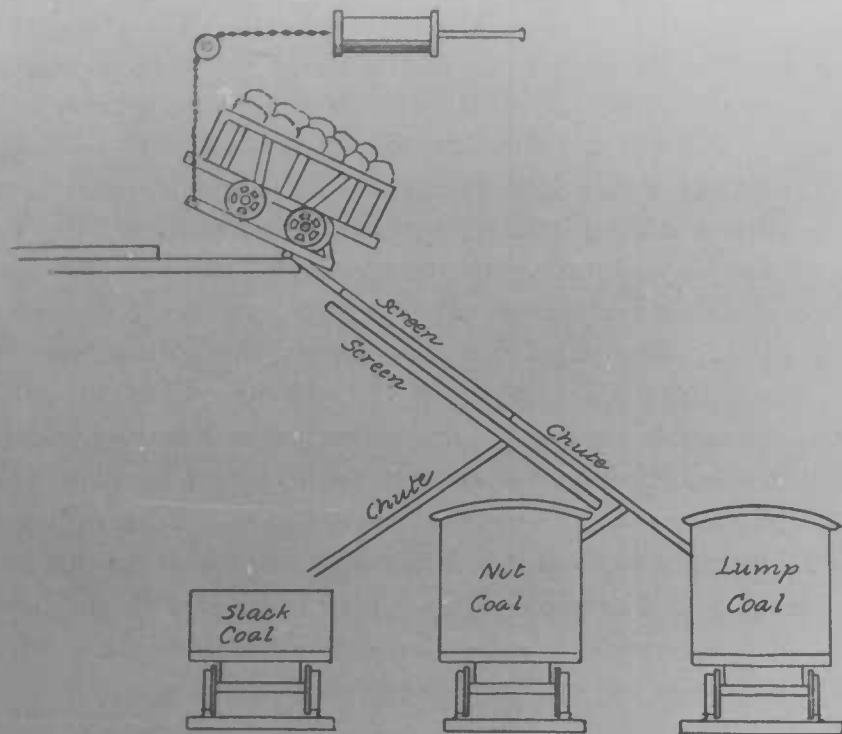


FIG. 38.—Sketch showing Main Tipple, Ocean No. 7, Consolidation Coal Company.

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Consolidation Coal Co. Mine #7

Allegany County

D. Ware, 12/81

Photocopy, MGS, Report on Coals of Md.,
1905, p. 568

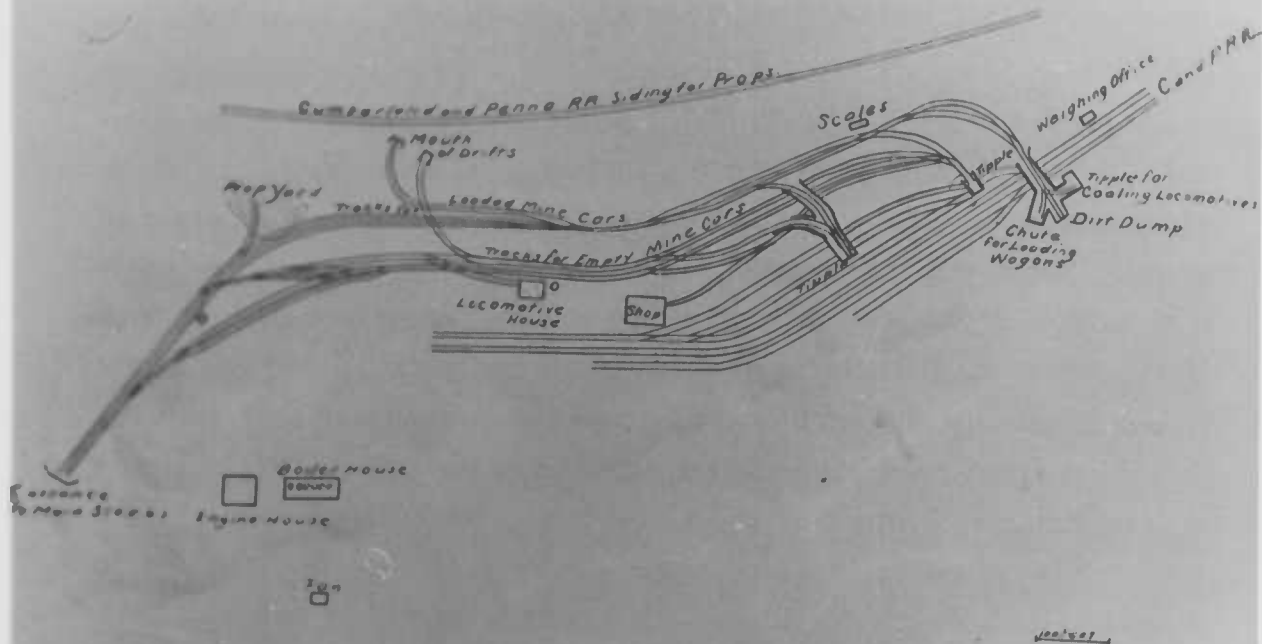


FIG. 37.—Sketch showing Track Arrangement, Ocean No. 7, Consolidation Coal Company.

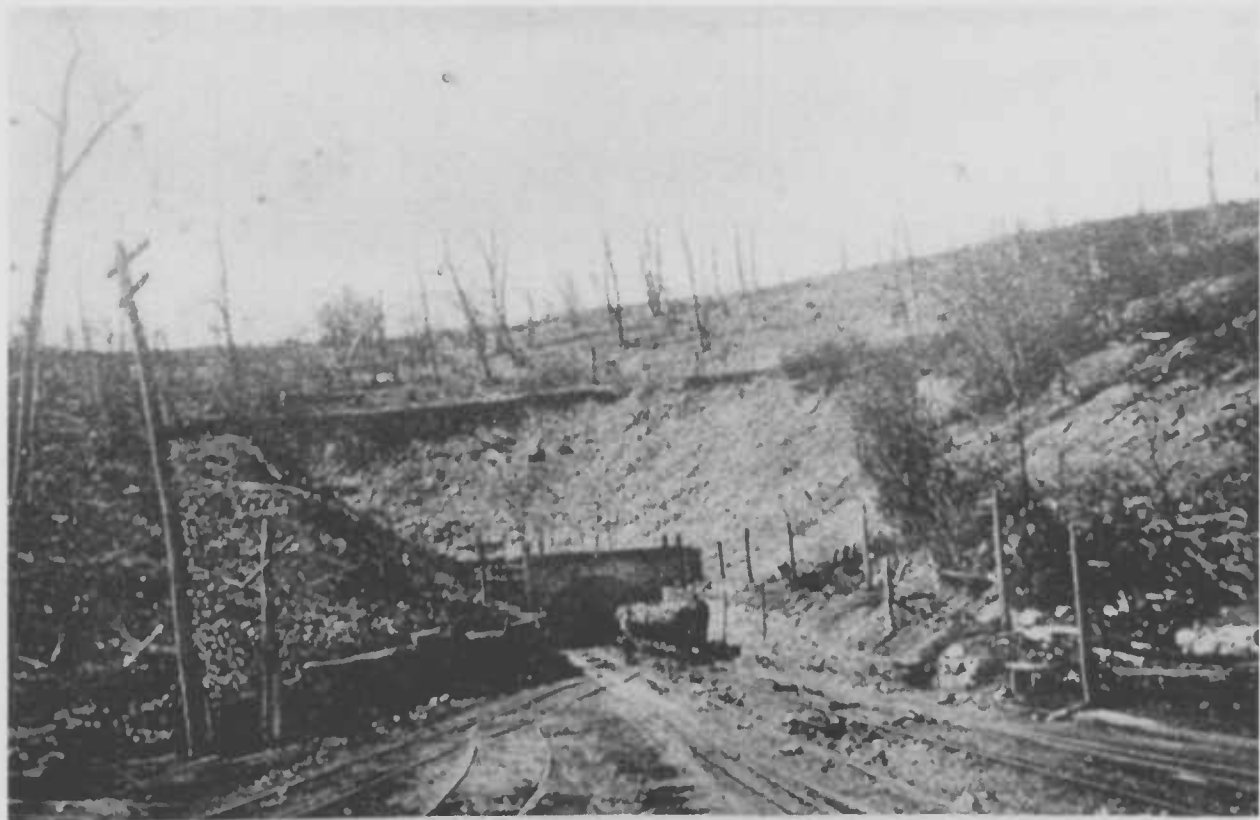
AL-VI-B-229

Consolidation Coal Co. Mine #7

Allegany County

D. Ware, 12/81

Photocopy: MGS, Report on Coals of Md.,
1905, p. 566



Consolidated Coal Co.'s Mine No. 7, Frostburg, Md.

AL-VI-B-229

Consolidation Coal Co. Mine #7

Allegany Co., Md.

D. Ware, 11/81

Photocopy: Al Feldstein Collection



MINE IN THE CUMBERLAND COAL REGION

NEAR CUMBERLAND MD.

AL-VI-B-229

Consolidation Coal Co. Mine #7

Allegany Co., Md.

D. Ware, 11/81

Photocopy: Al Feldstein Collection



AL-VI-B-229

Consolidation Coal Co. Mine #7

Allegany County

D. Ware, 12/81

Photocopy: MGS, Report on Coals of Md.,
1905, plate XXIII